

**Statement from John Arledge, Deputy Chief of Staff**

**September 27, 2004**

“This lawsuit serves no purpose. Federal Medicaid waivers have been granted; PLAD beneficiaries are enrolling in other coverage; and Mississippi Medicaid is saving needed money during a budget crisis.

One of the reasons Governor Barbour has already delayed the Medicaid reform implementation by three months was to provide PLAD beneficiaries ample time to enroll in alternative health care coverage. In fact, the Division of Medicaid has used this time to contact all 48,000 PLAD recipients and assist them with their enrollment.

It is curious that this lawsuit is being filed almost four months after the notification letters

were originally mailed and after all 48,000 beneficiaries have been contacted about enrolling in alternative health care coverage. Nowhere in the lawsuit does it mention where additional money will come from for Medicaid.”

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